

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12
NEA-10 OIC-02 AGR-10 AID-05 EB-07 USIA-15 COME-00
TRSE-00 EPG-02 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 OES-07 OMB-01 DIWY-01
/131 W

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P R 011245Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4983

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

USMISSION GENEVA

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PARIS FOR CIEC

MANILA FOR USDEL TO WFC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, PCPM, AORG, WFP, UN

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD PROGRAM: COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID WRAPUP

1. THE THIRD CFA (16-27 MAY) COMPLETED WORK LATE FRIDAY FOLLOWING
TEN HOURS OF DEBATE ON COMMITTEE REPORT. PRIMARY ISSUES WERE THE
TARGET FOR PLEDGES FOR 1979/80 (DEFERRED TO FALL SESSION);
SIZE OF THE SEASIDE FOR EMERGENCIES (RETAINED AT \$40 MILLION FOR
1977, SUBJECT TO REVIEW AT FALL SESSION); FOOD AID TARGETS
FOR TRANSFERS TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (SECRETARIAT IS TO DO
FURTHER WORK ON A PROPOSED METHODOLOGY FOR RE-EXAMINATION OF THE
TEN MILLION TON CEREALS TARGET AND THE QUESTION OF TARGETS FOR
OTHER FOOD ITEMS); VARIOUS EFFORTS TO QUOTE LOOSEN UP UNQUOTE WFP
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, INCLUDING INCREASED SALES (LARGELY
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KEPT IN CHECK); A PROPOSAL BY INDIA TO PROVIDE THAT QUOTE OFFERS
OF FOOD GRAIN ON A REPLENISHMENT BASIS UNQUOTE FROM DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES QUOTE COULD BE ACCEPTED UNQUOTE (ADOPTED WITH RESPECT
TO EMERGENCIES AS BEING CONSISTENT WITH PRESENT POLICY, BUT
DEFERRED FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION IN ITS BROADER IMPLICATIONS);
AND THE TREATMENT OF ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS (THIS
ISSUE RESULTED IN FAILURE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED PARAGRAPH

DEALING WITH ELIGIBILITY IN THE REVISED GENERAL REGULATIONS, WHICH ALSO WAS DEFERRED TO THE FALL SESSION). SALIENT FEATURES OF THE REPORT ON THESE AND OTHER ITEMS ARE INDICATED BELOW.

2. THEMES RECEIVING GENERAL SUPPORT INCLUDED INCREASING PURCHASES BY WFP IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (BUT THIS ALSO MEANS INCREASED PRESSURE FOR PLEDGES IN CASH); AN INCREASE IN WFP'S ACTIVITIES IN A FOOD COORDINATION ROLE, PARTICULARLY IN EMERGENCY OPERATIONS; PROGRESSIVELY INCREASED QUOTE FORWARD PLANNING UNQUOTE OF FOOD AID BY DONOR COUNTRIES, A DIVERSIFICATION OF THE FOOD BASKET AND AN INCREASED SHARE TO BE PROGRAMMED THROUGH MULTILATERAL CHANNELS (READ PRIMARILY WFP); INCREASED INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN PROGRAM OPERATIONS AND IN WFP EMPLOYMENT. NINETEEN PROJECTS WERE APPROVED INVOLVING ABOUT \$129 MILLION. PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PROJECTS, 16 BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (FOOD VALUE LESS THAN \$1 MILLION EACH), TOTAL \$13.7 MILLION, AND ONE BY CORRESPONDENCE (\$13 MILLION) WERE ENDORSED.

3. REGARDING WFP INVOLVEMENT IN FOOD SECURITY SCHEMES, MOST DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT IN VIEW OF THE IMPROVED RECOURSE POSITION, CONDITIONS WERE NOW MORE PROPRIETOUS THAN IN THE PAST FOR WFP TO MAKE COMMITMENTS TO A SELECTED NUMBER OF THESE FOOD SECURITY SCHEMES, PROVIDED THAT PRIORITY ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAMME WERE NOT NEGLECTED. THE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT THE PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION WERE RELATIVELY SMALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL SECURITY OR PRICE STABILIZATION GRAIN RESERVES IN SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES. THE COMMITTEE WAS INFORMED THAT WFP DID NOT INTEND TO TAKE THE LEAD IN SUCH SCHEMES, BUT WAS RATHER THINKING OF PARTICIPATING IN THEM TOGETHER WITH OTHER DONORS, BILATERAL AND UNCLASSIFIED

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MULTILATERAL IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH FAO. HOWEVER, SOME DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT WFP PARTICIPATION IN SUCH SCHEMES PENDING A CAREFUL REVIEW OF WHAT WOULD BE A MAJOR NEW PROGRAMME ACTIVITY. THEY QUESTIONED WHETHER BUILDING SUCH STOCKPILES WAS AN APPROPRIATE USE OF GRANT FOOD AID.

4. SOME OF THE DELEGATES FELT THAT THE PRESENT ANNUAL EMERGENCY ALLOCATION SHOULD BE INCREASED FROM \$40 MILLION TO \$60 MILLION. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HOWEVER, FELT THAT, IN VIEW OF THE INCREASED PLEDGES TO THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY FOOD RESERVE, THE PROGRAMME SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO DRAW ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT SOURCE RATHER THAN CALL FOR ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION FROM ITS OWN SCARCE RESOURCES FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WHEN ASKED FOR HIS VIEWS SAID HE DID NOT FEEL THE IMMEDIATE NEED FOR AN INCREASE IN THE ALLOCATION OF \$40 MILLION FROM THE PROGRAMME'S REGULAR RESOURCES. THE COMMITTEE DECIDED THAT THE MATTER SHOULD BE FURTHER REVIEWED AT ITS FOURTH SESSION, WHEN MORE INFORMATION WOULD BE AVAILABLE ON THE STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY FOOD RESERVE SCHEME, ON OVERALL

RESOURCES PLEDGED TO WFP AND ON THE ESTIMATED REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
REMAINDER OF 1977. (FYI. THE U.S. VIEW.) THE COMMITTEE AGREED,
HOWEVER, THAT - SHOULD THE PRESENT ALLOCATION APPROVE INSUFFI-
CIENT BEFORE THE FOURTH SESSION - THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHOULD
ASK FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS BY CORRESPONDENCE.

5. THE COMMITTEE WELCOMED THE ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY THE DELEGATE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF THE PREPAREDNESS OF HER GOVERNMENT TO
CONTRIBUTE UP TO 125,000 TONS OF FOOD AID TO THE INTERNATIONAL
EMERGENCY FOOD RESERVE IN COMPANY WITH OTHER DONORS WHICH HAVE
STILL TO AGREE TO CONTRIBUTE. SOME OTHER DELEGATES INFORMED THE
COMMITTEE THAT THE QUESTION OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE RESERVE WAS
UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS. IT WAS POINTED OUT
THAT THE CURRENT HIGH LEVEL OF STOCKS PRESENTED A GOOD
OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH THIS RESERVE.

6. THE COMMITTEE AGREED THAT IT SHOULD REVIEW ANNUALLY PROGRESS
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TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IMPROVED FOOD AID POLICY AND THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL IN THIS MATTER. IT
SUGGESTED THAT THIS REVIEW SHOULD, IN ADDITION TO REPORTING ON
THE ACTION TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD CON-
FERENCE, AIM AT ANALYZING TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE PROGRESS
MADE IN ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF ERADICATING HUNGER AND
MALNUTRITION, OF INCREASING RURAL EMPLOYMENT, AND OF IMPROVING
FOOD SECURITY. ALSO, IT SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND
SUGGEST INNOVATIVE APPROACHES, IF NECESSARY.
(MORE)

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OIC-02 /131 W

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.....NECESSARY.

7. ON THE METHOD OF ASSESSING FOOD AID REQUIREMENTS AND THE
TEN MILLION TON TARGET FOR CEREALS, THE COMMITTEE REACHED THE
FOLLOWING CONSENSUS:

(A) IT RECOGNIZED THAT THE MINIMUM FOOD AID TARGET OF TEN MILLION
TONS OF CEREALS WHICH HAS BEEN AGREED MINISTERIAL LEVEL AT THE
WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE REPRESENTED THE COLLECTIVE JUDGMENT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. IT AGREED THAT THIS TARGET SHOULD BE
TAKEN AS THE POINT OF DEPARTURE IN THE ASSESSMENT OF FUTURE
GLOBAL FOOD AID NEEDS.

(B) THE APPROACH TO BE ADOPTED FOR SUCH AN ASSESSMENT SHOULD BE
SIMPLE AND PRAGMATIC, AND AVOID THE NEED FOR LONG AND COMPLICATED
STUDIES. IT SHOULD ALSO BE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO MEET THE NEEDS OF
CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES. THE APPROACH SHOULD NOT RESULT IN FREEZING
THE HISTORICAL PATTERNS OR SHARES OF FOOD AID IN TOTAL IMPORTS,
EITHER GLOBALLY OR FOR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES. WHILE SPECIAL
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ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE NEEDS OF THE POORER COUNTRIES,
THE FOOD AID REQUIREMENTS OF COUNTRIES THAT HAD BEEN MORE
SUCCESSFUL IN IMPLEMENTING POLICIES OF DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-
RELIANCE SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED.

(C) ALTHOUGH NOT YET TAKING A FINAL VIEW ON THE APPROPRIATE
METHODOLOGY, THE COMMITTEE WAS IN FAVOR OF SYNTHESIZING THE
GLOBAL AND THE COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY APPROACHES. THE GLOBAL APPROACH
SHOULD ANALYZE PROJECTED LEVELS OF PRODUCTION AND DEMAND FOR
CEREALS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, DRAWING, INTER ALIA, ON THE
RESULTS OF FAO'S ONGOING COMMODITY PROJECTION WORK. IT WAS FELT
THAT THIS APPROACH WOULD PROVIDE A USEFUL BASIS FOR THE COMMITTEE
TO MAKE A REASONED JUDGMENT ON THE MINIMUM FOOD AID TARGET FOR
FUTURE YEARS. THE COMMITTEE SUGGESTED THAT THIS ANALYSIS
SHOULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY ESTIMATES OF THE FOOD
AID REQUIRED FOR ONGOING AND PLANNED NATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR
NUTRITION, DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY PURPOSES. IT WOULD BE
NECESSARY TO BE SELECTIVE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PER CAPITA
INCOMES, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION AND INDEBTEDNESS. IT
REQUESTED THE SECRETARIAT, IN COLLABORATION WITH FAO, TO DEVELOP A

METHODOLOGY AND CIRCULATE IT FOR COMMENTS BY MEMBERS PRIOR TO BEGINNING WORK.

(D) BASED ON THIS APPROACH, AN INTERIM REPORT ON THE AVAILABLE RESULTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE FIFTH SESSION.

(E) THE COMMITTEE RECOGNIZED THAT THE ASSESSMENT OF FOOD AID REQUIREMENTS, IN VIEW OF ITS DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX NATURE, WOULD TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE IT WAS COMPLETED. IT AGREED THAT, MEANWHILE, THE EXERCISE SHOULD IN NO WAY AFFECT OR VMIT THE FLOW OF FOOD AID AND STRESSED THAT ALL EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO REACH THE MINIMUM FOOD AID TARGET OF TEN MILLION TONS OF CEREALS ESTABLISHED BY THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE.

8. ON NON-CEREAL TARGETS, THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO CONSIDER AT ITS FIFTH SESSION NON-CEREAL FOOD AID REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING UNCLASSIFIED

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THE QUESTION OF TARGETS, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE AVAILABLE RESULTS OF THE GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF FOOD AID REQUIREMENTS (SEE PARA 7 ABOVE) AND IN THE LIGHT OF ADDITIONAL RELEVANT INFORMATION FOR NON-CEREAL FOOD ITEMS.

9. THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED THE DRAFT OF THE REGISED WFP GENERAL REGULATIONS (ANNEX TO DOCUMENT WFP/CFA: 3/8) AS PREPARED BY THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMITTEE AT ITS SECOND SESSION IN NOVEMBER 1976, AND APPROVED THE TEXT OF THE PROGRAMME'S GENERAL REGULATIONS, AS REVISED, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PARAGRAPH 14 CONCERNING QUOTE ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE UNQUOTE ON WHICH IT WAS UNABLE TO REACH A DECISION GIVEN THE DIFFERENT VIEWS ON, INTER ALIA, WHETHER THE WORKING GROUP'S DRAFT ADEQUATELY REFLECTED IN THAT PARAGRAPH THE GUIDANCE PROVIDED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ITS RESOLUTION 31/30. FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF PARAGRAPH 14 BY THE COMMITTEE WAS POSTPONED TO ITS FOURTH SESSION. TO FACILITATE THE COMMITTEE'S TASK IN THIS REGARD THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WAS REQUESTED TO MAKE A DETAILED STUDY OF THE SUBSTANCE OF PARAGRAPH 14 IN THE LIGHT OF THE DEBATE THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE, INDICATING (A) THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE PROGRAMME HAS SO FAR BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, (B) WHAT DIFFICULTIES, IF ANY, HAD BEEN ENCOUNTERED IN PROVIDING SUCH ASSISTANCE AND (C) WHAT MEASURES OF A PROCEDURAL NATURE THE PROGRAMME HAD TAKEN, OR COULD TAKE, TO OVERCOME ANY SUCH DIFFICULTIES IN PROVIDING AID UNDER WFP'S PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. IN STUDYING THIS MATTER, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WAS ASKED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS ON THE SUBJECT ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND PARTICULARLY PARAGRAPH 7 OF ITS RESOLUTION 31/30 OF 29 NOVEMBER 1976. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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